

Mr. Richard Gallen
14 E 60 St.,
New York, N.Y.

3/5/76

Dear Dick,

Progress and status/new status report.

There has been a change in the court schedule which gives me more flexibility. No calendar call the 15th. Now set for 26th. By then, theoretically, all the DJ units, including the FBI, are to have completed their searches and to have all material ready for me to examine.

I was in Chapter 12 yesterday when interruptions kept me from completing it. I hope to be able to do that today and before the first of the week to have worked to the actual FBI files part.

If I had not had to be away yesterday afternoon I'd have known if I have located a part-time typist.

There is a change in the Ray defense. As you will understand it has to be confidential until it is public. It is one I've anticipated and senior counsel made a mess of a bad situation a week ago, & guaranteeing it. He wrote the worst of possible letters because he was offended, guaranteeing what was to have happened anyway. However, Ray will be insane if he lets word out before 6th circuit rules. He is capable, directly or through family. He is a lemming.

This will give me the opportunity I've long wanted to depart ethically and unless, as I do not expect, my friend/lawyer Jim Lesar stays, I will go. I'll help Jim, regardless of my own status. But my work product is my own, I've not been paid for it, and none of it comes from Ray anyway. So, there will be no charge of conflict.

Probably next week will be pretty much taken up with the Playboy consultancy, this time on King.

There are two reporters with whom I work in NYC with whom I'll want to meet. Without planning I've been thinking of going up on Sunday the 14th. If you want to talk without running into your working day, would this suit you better, our getting together Sunday? If so, please let me know how much time you want to learn more and I'll arrange my meetings around that.

It seems to me that with the speech on Wednesday if I can begin at Bell Monday morning I'll be finished if they are honest and if they stonewall and unless there are other things to hold me might be able to return after the speech.

I've never searched a publisher's records before. It would be good to know how many and what kind of duplicating or not quite duplicating records or files to ask for as well as what different accounting records. The few accountings I have do not jibe with other proofs I have already. What I would like is to get enough more to persuade them to settle out of court. My own view is that with I have now there will be enough hurt to several of their top people for them to want to be reasonable and to avoid the damage to them of going to court.

Best,